

Participation in the **Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative**

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Sponsors/Partners:

- 110 sponsoring agencies, organizations, and businesses (see <http://www.wisconsinbirds.org>)

Funding Sources:

- WCRP, Dept. of Interior..... **\$10,000¹**
- SWG Program, Dept. of Interior..... **\$10,000¹**

¹WBCI funding applicable to Research, Inventory, and Monitoring Committee functions and the "Survey of Avian Surveys."

Introduction: The North American Bird Conservation Initiative links bird conservation efforts in the United States, Canada, and Mexico through existing initiatives such as the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, Partners In Flight, U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan, and the North American Waterbird Conservation Plan. The goal is to *"deliver the full spectrum of bird conservation through regionally-based, biologically-driven, landscape-oriented partnerships."* The focus of the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative (WBCI) is on Wisconsin birds with continued coordination at larger geographic scales.

Loren Ayers is the Research Inventory and Monitoring Committee co-chair with Jerry Bartelt, DNR Wildlife and Forestry Research Section.

Brian Bub is leading the development of a Forest Bird and Habitat Management Matrix and also writing several Species Accounts for WBCI's Forest and Barrens Subcommittee.

Mike Solomon is leading the development of the "Survey of Avian Surveys" for the Research, Inventory, and Monitoring Committee.

The Matrix. The Forest Bird and Habitat Management Matrix will identify all combinations of forest types and bird assemblages and quantify how bird demographics change as a result of forest succession and management. The Matrix will focus on the "forest stand" to provide a scale that is most tangible for resource management. The Matrix will provide managers, policy makers, and private landowners the ability to directly quantify the influence of proposed management activities on bird species and assemblages.

Supporters and participants include WDNR Forestry's Silvicultural Team, Dr. Robert Howe - UW Green Bay, and both internal and external member of the Forest and Barrens Subcommittee and the Research Inventory, and Monitoring Committee.

The Survey of Surveys. The leading priority for WBCI's Research, Inventory, and Monitoring Committee is a thorough assessment of our current knowledge regarding bird-related population, habitat, and management issues in Wisconsin. The prime means to accomplish this review is through a "survey of avian surveys" which will include 1) a comprehensive collection and presentation of metadata for relevant bird projects, 2) a collection of key reports and datasets available to WBCI committees and partners, and 3) a review of the status and direction of avian research, inventory, and monitoring projects to help direct future priorities. This project will help avian researchers and managers find important information and contacts, understand where current weaknesses and research needs are, and thereby directly support avian conservation efforts in Wisconsin.